



AFS Enterprises
Manufactured
by Melissa Sanger

THE CHALLENGE COIN

The tradition of the "Challenge Coin" originated during World War I. American volunteers had formed flying squadrons. Each member of one of these squadrons had a solid bronze medallion produced by the squadron's wealthy lieutenant. One member of this squadron escaped from German captivity and was recaptured by the French. The French were about to execute the American not knowing he was a friend, but the squadron medallion worn by the American was recognized by one of the French soldiers. The American flyer's life was spared.

During and after World War I, a tradition began to ensure that members carried their coin at all times. This goal was pursued by having a member challenge another member to show the coin. If the challenged soldier could not show the coin, they had to buy a drink or choice for the challenger. If the challenged soldier could show a coin, the challenger had to buy the drink. For many years after World War I, surviving members kept this tradition alive and it has gained new popularity as a symbol of unit pride and esprit de corps.



IMAGING & PUBLISHING SUPPORT
The professional design, print, and digital solutions provider

2010/09/15

COINS & MEDALLIONS

DESIGN & PRODUCTION GUIDELINES

DESIGN & PROCUREMENT

Challenge coins, medals, and medallions are creative, long lasting ways to recognize outstanding performance, dedication to the mission, and organizational branding and unity. Imaging & Publishing Support provides design and procurement services for challenge coins, medallions, and a variety of other recognition awards. Each of these items is designed and crafted to uniquely capture the personality and mission of your office or specific activity.

IPS Design Studio and Customer Service Representatives will keep you informed during the development and production of your coin or medallion, as with all good things, the process takes time. All coins, medals, and medallions are die-struck from solid brass, nickel-silver, copper, bronze or precious metals and are available in a variety of finishes.

Customization may include enamel colorization of the design on one or both sides, polished finish, antique finish, or acrylic coating to enhance the finish of the coin. Once minted you may choose from several presentation options for your coin or medallion, ranging from a simple plastic sleeve, to a custom crafted cherry presentation box. Your Customer Service Representative will help you select what best suits your needs. IPS only uses vendors that provide American made products.

The process to design and procure a coin or medallion can vary in length as a result of several factors: complexity of the design, design revisions, client approval of design proof and vendor lead proof, minting time and shipping time.

DESIGN & PRODUCTION TIMELINE FOR COINS & MEDALLIONS:

(All times are estimated and subject to change)

TASK	SIMPLE	COMPLEX
Coin design development	2 weeks	4 weeks
Vendor selection	3 - 5 days	3 - 5 days
Lead proof of product	2 weeks	2 weeks
Manufacturing	3 - 5 weeks	4 - 6 weeks

Highly dependent on customer requirements and designer availability, as well as customer availability for review and approval.

Procurements over the micro purchase threshold require three bids.

IPS recommends inspection of a 3D lead proof prior to minting, this process can be started by the customer and a review of a scanned lead proof via e-mail can be obtained.

Depends on complexity of the design and type of product being produced.

REQUESTING SERVICES

To request IPS services for the design and procurement of a coin or medallion, access the IPS Products and Services Request database via Lotus Notes.

A member of our Design Studio will meet with you to determine project requirements level of design effort, and provide an estimate.

We will assign a designer and initiate the design phase of your project once you approve the estimate. We are committed to your satisfaction and strive to ensure the end product accurately reflects the image of the requesting office.

Design Studio will provide of a variety of proofs, incorporate client-recommended changes, and provide production files. Our Customer Service Center will procure the final product, soliciting three bids if required, in accordance with Agency policy.

Additional time is involved if the final coin or medallion design incorporates color enamel.

IPS looks forward to assisting you with all your challenge coin, medal, and medallion needs. Please visit the IPS Customer Service Center [REDACTED] OHB to see a wide selection of our minted products.

CONTACT US

IPS offers a variety of services in addition to those listed herein, including multimedia, printing, design, web publishing and photography. For a complete listing of our products and services, please contact us.

CIA Imaging & Publishing Support

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